

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

S E C R E T BANGKOK 13875

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, MILI, MASS, TH, VN, CB

SUBJECT: THAI REQUEST FOR BRIEFING ON U.S.-SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT
STILL IN VIETNAM

REF: (A) STATE 163577

(B) LETTER DIA-DAO BANGKOK DATED JUNE 26, 1975, SUBJECT,
"RELEASE OF INFORMATION", WITH ATTACHMENT ENTITLED:
"FUTURE VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST USE OF CAPTURED U.S.
EQUIPMENT

1. ON AUTHORIZATION OF DIA AND WITH CONCURRENCE OF EMBASSY
POLICY LEVEL, DEFENSE ATTACHE HAS ALREADY RELEASED TO THAI
SUPREME COMMAND INFORMATION ON MILITARY EQUIPMENT HELD BY
GVN AT TIME OF COMMUNIST TAKEOVER. THIS INFORMATION WAS
SUPPLIED BY DIA AND HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY SUPREME COMMAND.
SUPREME COMMAND HAS ASKED FOR SIMILAR INFORMATION FOR
CAMBODIA AND DEFENSE ATTACHE IS SEEKING THIS FROM DIA.

2. WE AGREE WITH DEPARTMENT THAT ON BALANCE U.S. SHOULD
BE FORTHCOMING WITH SUCH INFORMATION. SINCE THAI ARE
ALREADY CONVINCED THAT ENORMOUS ARSENALS OF U.S. MILITARY
EQUIPMENT REMAIN IN INDOCHINA AND PARTICULARLY IN IVETNAM,
SUPPLYING SPECIFIC INFORMATION WILL NOT CREATE, ALTHOUGH
IT WILL CONFIRM, THEIR ALARM. IT MIGHT ALSO STIMULATE
THEIR OWN MILITARY PROCUREMENT. WE DO NOT THINK IT WILL
HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THEIR WILLINGNESS TO PERMIT
REMOVAL OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT EX-CAMBODIA/VIETNAM NOW IN

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THAILAND. WE ALREADY ASSUME THAT THAI WILL SEEK TO OBTAIN

AS MUCH OF THIS EQUIPMENT AS THEY CAN USE, IN ADDITION TO WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY OFFERED THEM.

3. OVER TIME, DIA WILL BE REFINING ITS INFORMATION TO GIVE A BETTER PICUTRE OF THE CONDITION OF THE EQUIPMENT IN INDOCHINA, INCLUDING INFORMATION ON WHAT WAS DESTROYED, WHAT WAS UNUSABLE OR IRREPARABLE, AND THE LIKE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING THIS INFORMATION AS IT IS DEVELOPED SO THAT WE CAN PASS IT ON TO THE THAI AS FOLLOW-UP TO THE ORIGINAL PRESENTATION.

4. WE BELIEVE THE BEST WAY TO PRESENT THIS INFORMATION TO THE THAI IS IN A LOW-KEY WAY AND THROUGH ESTABLISHED CHANNELS, AND FOR THAT REASON WE WOULD NOT FAVOR A SPECIAL TRIP BY VON MARBOD FOR THIS PURPOSE. VON MARBOD, OF COURAGE, IS ALWAYS WELCOME HERE AND WE WILL BE MOST HAPPY TO SEE HIM WHENEVER HE WANTS TO COME.
WHITEHOUSE

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